

Candidate's Statement: Simon Baker

I am applying for the role of board member, a position I have held for the past 3 years.

I believe supporters are one of the most important stakeholders for any sporting team and their views must be considered by the management. For far too long this hasn't been the case with Cardiff Blues Limited or indeed with Cardiff Athletic Club. Both organisations have operated on a self-serving basis accountable only to themselves and not to those supporters who spend hard earned cash to watch the teams they love.

Our club will be stronger if the voice of the supporters is heard and listened to. This I believe can be best achieved through the CF10 supporters' trust. Together as a formal, democratic organisation we can strengthen the influence of supporters over the running of our club.

During my time the board has achieved a great deal providing supporter representation, giving the supporters a voice. Many of the changes we have been seeking in the governance of the Cardiff Blues have started to be put in place and we are getting closer to our stated goal of having a supporter representative on the Cardiff Blues board. I wish to continue to be an active member of the team helping to achieve this goal.

I've been a member of the CF10 Arms Park Rugby Trust working party since the first open meeting where we secured a vote to form officially and ever since have been actively involved in the Trust.

Through the Trust I have been helping to preserve the heritage of Cardiff Rugby, something I believe passionately in. I am responsible for setting up and maintaining the Cardiff Rugby Museum website, a catalogue of Cardiff Rugby memorabilia, recently adding more than 500 virtual objects to the to complement the existing physical collection held at the club. The Trust continues to work with Cardiff Blues, Cardiff RFC and Cardiff Athletic Club to ensure our goal of a permanent physical museum at Cardiff Arms Park is included in any redevelopment plans.

I'm a committed and passionate supporter of Cardiff Blues and Cardiff RFC and have been a season ticket holder and member for the past 13 years. I attend most home games and as many away games as I'm able.

A bit about me personally - I'm 53 years old and live in Canton with my partner Jo. Besides rugby and rugby heritage, my other passion is guitars - playing, repairing, restoring, building and collecting.